

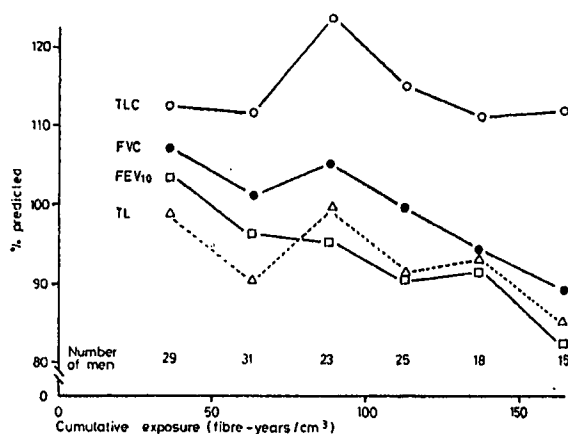


Fig. 3 The relationship between indices of lung function and cumulative exposure to asbestos, for men first employed after 1950.

the non-smokers were on average younger than the smokers, aged 55 years compared with 58 years for those first employed before 1951, and 47 years compared with 52 years for those first employed after 1950. The data are shown in age groups in Table 7. After taking account of age, there were significantly fewer signs in non-smokers and light smokers than in heavier and ex-smokers, for men first exposed after 1950: for crepitations, $P < 0.01$; for possible and certified asbestosis, $P < 0.1$ and for small opacities $P < 0.05$.

Dose-response relationships

The dose-response relationships considered in this section are those between the prevalence or incidence of one of the three signs (crepitations, possible, or certified asbestosis) and a measure of dust exposure. The mathematical forms of dose-response relationships and a discussion of methods for combining the

Table 6 The association between smoking and signs of asbestosis

Employment group and smoking habit	Mean cumulative exposure (f-yr/cm ³)	Numbers of men				
		Total	Crepitations	Possible asbestosis	Certified asbestosis	Small radiological opacities*
First employed before 1951						
Never smoked	197	22	4	3	2	4
1-4 cigarettes/day	109	7	3	3	1	2
5-14 cigarettes/day	188	62	22	15	7	18
15+ cigarettes/day	197	62	20	18	9	22
Ex-smokers	192	28	7	6	5	13
First employed after 1950						
Never smoked	79	42	0	0	0	2
1-4 cigarettes/day	91	13	0	0	0	0
5-14 cigarettes/day	89	48	11	6	5	11
15+ cigarettes/day	84	68	11	4	3	11
Ex-smokers	81	24	4	3	2	4

*Profusion 1/0 or more.

Table 7 The association between smoking, age and signs of asbestosis

Employment group and smoking habit	Age group	Numbers of men				
		Total	Crepitations	Possible asbestosis	Certified asbestosis	Small radiological opacities*
First employed before 1951						
Never smoked and 1-4 cigarettes per day	- 54	11	0	0	1	0
	55+	18	7	6	2	6
Other smokers and ex-smokers	- 54	37	7	5	2	6
	55+	115	42	34	19	47
First employed after 1950						
Never smoked and 1-4 cigarettes per day	- 44	26	0	0	0	1
	45-54	17	0	0	0	0
	55+	12	0	0	0	1
Other smokers and ex-smokers	- 44	32	0	0	0	1
	45-54	51	8	5	4	10
	55+	57	18	8	6	15

*Profusion 1/0 or more.

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